

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections to the claims.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito et al in view of Hatagishi et al, as well as Saito et al in view of LaCroix. The Examiner alleges that these two combinations would disclose Applicants' invention.

Claim 1 defines a connection structure between a bus bar and relay terminals. The bus bar is produced from an aluminum based metal plate. The bus bar is welded to the relay terminal. Also, the welded connection is embedded in a molded insulation resin.

The art cited by the Examiner fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' invention. First, the Examiner starts out with the Saito reference. Nowhere does Saito disclose or suggest the utilization of an aluminum based metal plate. Further, the Saito reference discloses a plate 50 which is utilized to prevent sliding of the welding portions with respect to one another. See column 7, lines 62 through 65. Thus, the plate acts to keep the two positioned with respect to one another during the welding process. There is no mention or suggestion of

utilizing a resin material to embed the welded terminals. The Hatagishi et al reference, cited by the Examiner, illustrates the utilization of a resin material to pressure and connect portions of the wire in chamber 12b. However, as pointed out in column 6, lines 22 through 26, the resin material is prevented from flowing towards the electrical contact portion 21 of the crimping terminal. Thus, since Applicants claim that the welded connection parts are embedded in the resin material, the Hatagishi et al reference teaches away from the resin material being in the contact portion as claimed by Applicants. Thus, the combination cited by the Examiner would fail to disclose or suggest Applicants' invention. Accordingly, Applicants would submit that Claim 1 is patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

The Examiner rejects Claim 2 as being unpatentable over Saito in view of LaCroix.

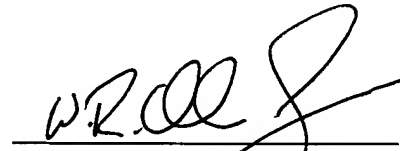
As mentioned above, Saito, as well as LaCroix, fail to disclose or suggest the aluminum bus bar. Also, neither Saito nor LaCroix discloses grease applied to and fills in exteriors and interior clearances of the welded connection parts between each of the bus bar and the relay terminals. LaCroix, at best, illustrates the hollow shaft and extensions acting as a grease reservoir after connection or crimping. Column 4, lines 51 through 57. Nowhere does it disclose that the grease surrounds the connection as claimed by Applicants. Accordingly, the combination cited by the Examiner fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' invention.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure